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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 6. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

7. (Previously Presented) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, further comprising transmitting a control stream of data to the first and second receivers using the common carrier.

8. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

9. (Previously Presented) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, wherein the single stream of data comprises audio/video data.

10. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

11. (Previously Presented) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, wherein a number of unused carriers allocated to the control stream of data is less than a specified maximum.

12. (Previously Presented) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 11, wherein the specified maximum comprises 10% of available carriers.

13. (Previously Presented) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, wherein the communication comprises an Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexed TDMA communication.

14. (Previously Presented) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, wherein the new tone map specifies that an unused carrier is to be reallocated to a plurality of other streams of data.

Application No.: 10/616,344

-2-

15. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

16. (Previously Presented) A time slot and carrier allocation method for time division multiple access (TDMA) multiple carrier communications, comprising:

determining from a tone map that first and second time slots are generally allocated to a first and a second receiver respectively;

determining from the tone map that the first and second receivers are able to receive using a common set of carriers;

determining that a single data stream is to be transmitted to the first and second receivers;

transmitting a new tone map to the first and second receivers that specifies that the first and second receivers are to receive the single data stream using the common set of carriers during one or more designated time slots; and

wherein the number of common carriers is greater than a threshold number of available carriers, and wherein the threshold number comprises approximately 50% of available carriers.

17. (Previously Presented) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, further comprising transmitting the single data stream using the common set of carriers during the designated time slots.

18. - 19. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

20. (Previously Presented) The time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16, wherein the tone map designates that the first and second receivers receive the single data stream using merged time slots.

21. (Original) An electronic storage medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 16.

Application No.: 10/616,344

22. - 30. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the communication is carried out in a power line communication system.

32. (Previously Presented) A time slot and carrier allocation method for time division multiple access (TDMA) multiple carrier communications, comprising:

- determining from a tone map that first and second time slots are generally allocated to a first and a second receiver respectively;

- determining from the tone map that the first and second receivers are able to receive using a common set of carriers;

- determining that a single data stream is to be transmitted to the first and second receivers;

- transmitting a new tone map to the first and second receivers that specifies that the first and second receivers are to receive the single data stream using the common set of carriers during one or more designated time slots, wherein the new tone map specifies that an unused carrier is to be reallocated to a plurality of other streams of data;

- transmitting the single data stream using the common set of carriers during the designated time slots;

- transmitting a control stream of data to the first and second receivers using the common carrier; and

- wherein the number of common carriers is greater than a threshold number of available carriers, and wherein the threshold number comprises approximately 50% of available carriers, and wherein the tone map designates that the first and second receivers receive the single data stream using merged time slots, and wherein the single stream of data comprises audio/video data; and

- wherein a number of unused carriers allocated to the control stream of data is less than a specified maximum, and wherein the specified maximum comprises approximately 10% of available carriers, and wherein the communication comprises an Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexed TDMA power line communication.

Application No.: 10/616,344

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the communication is carried out in a power line communication system.

34. (Previously Presented) An electronic storage medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a time slot and carrier allocation method according to claim 32.